

## MONTHLY SURVIVOR BENEFITS

These important benefits are available for your eligible survivors if at the time of your death you are making retirement contributions or had made such contributions in the previous fiscal year. They are also available for your survivors if at the time of your death you are receiving an allowance based on the disability retirement formula during the entitlement period. **These benefits are not available if at the time of your death you are receiving a service retirement allowance or a disability allowance based on the service retirement formula.** If your survivor falls into a certain category, that person or persons may qualify for a monthly benefit in lieu of a refund of your account. The following persons may qualify: your widow or widower (if named as primary beneficiary of your account), minor children (under age 18 or up to age 23 if a full-time student in college and unmarried), your mentally or physically incapacitated adult child, your dependent parents, and your dependent brother or sister. These persons qualify in the order named except that a widow or widower, minor children, and incapacitated adult children may qualify at the same time. The monthly survivor benefit is discussed in more detail in the four sections following this one.

## MONTHLY SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR A SURVIVING SPOUSE WHEN THE MEMBER IS NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE

### YOUR SPOUSE MUST BE DESIGNATED AS THE PRIMARY BENEFICIARY OF YOUR ACCOUNT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SURVIVOR BENEFITS. CHECK WITH KTRS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WISH TO MAKE A CHANGE.

The basic monthly benefit for your surviving spouse (if named as your primary beneficiary) is \$180 with no restriction on other income. The monthly payment is \$240 if your spouse's income from other sources is less than \$550 per month. As noted in the introduction, this benefit is available for a surviving spouse only if at the time of your death you are making contributions to the retirement system or had made such contributions during the previous fiscal year, or if you are receiving an allowance based on the disability retirement formula during the entitlement period. A surviving spouse is eligible to receive the basic monthly benefit for the rest of his or her life unless and until he or she remarries.

If upon your death you have a minimum of **ten** years of service in the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS), your surviving spouse (if named as your primary beneficiary) may apply for an annuity actuarially equivalent to the annuity you would have received when eligibility conditions were met (this benefit would replace the basic monthly benefit described in the preceding paragraph once the eligibility conditions are met). Eligibility for annuity payments begins when the member's age would

have met the requirements for retirement. Monthly payments are guaranteed for your surviving spouse's life except that eligibility ceases upon remarriage. Remarriage before the eligibility conditions are met will also void this benefit.

## MONTHLY SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR CHILDREN AND OTHER DEPENDENTS

Your dependent children under age 18 qualify regardless of the income or marital status of the remaining parent. Benefit eligibility ceases at the end of the month the child reaches age 18. Your children may apply for additional benefits after age 18 if they are full-time students in a recognized educational program. Eligibility for benefits beyond age 18 ceases when the student is classified as less than full-time, drops out of school, graduates, or turns age 23. Payments are suspended for the period between high school graduation and full-time enrollment in college. A child's marriage at any time ceases benefit eligibility.

Dependent parents, or if there are none, a dependent brother or sister, may qualify for survivor benefits in the absence of a widow, widower, minor children, or a physically/mentally handicapped adult child. The measure of dependency is proof that the person in question was receiving one-half or more of his or her support from the member at the time of death. The monthly survivor benefit shall terminate upon marriage of the survivor or upon termination of the condition resulting in the dependency.

## DEATH OF A MEMBER ELIGIBLE TO RETIRE

Upon your death, if you are an active contributing member eligible to retire by reason of service, your spouse or legal dependent, **if named as primary beneficiary**, may choose in lieu of a refund of your account or survivor benefits, an annuity actuarially equivalent to the annuity that you would have received had you retired the day before death. Your spouse or legal dependent is limited to selecting an option providing either a straight life annuity with refundable balance (Option I) or five, ten, fifteen or twenty years certain payment (Option II). Your spouse may receive this benefit at the same time that your children are receiving monthly survivor benefits. However, a legal dependent, other than your spouse, would not be eligible to receive this benefit if your children qualify to receive monthly survivor benefits.

This benefit can provide a much larger lifetime payment to the surviving spouse than the regular survivor benefit plan. Refer to the information pamphlet entitled "Service Retirement" for an explanation as to when a member becomes eligible for service retirement.

This benefit payment continues for the lifetime of your spouse or legal dependent, with no income or marriage restrictions.

A surviving spouse qualifying for this benefit may be eligible for coverage by the KTRS medical insurance plan. KTRS does not pay any portion of the supplement toward the cost of the spouse's medical insurance coverage. The surviving spouse must make this election within thirty (30) days of the date of the member's death. An election by a surviving spouse to decline or cease participation in the

KTRS medical insurance plan is permanent. Medical coverage also terminates in the event of the surviving spouse’s remarriage.

If at the time of your death you are retired under the disability provisions with at least twenty-seven (27) years of service and you are still in the entitlement period, your spouse, if named as your primary beneficiary, may elect an annuity actuarially equivalent to the retirement allowance that would have been paid to you had service retirement been effective on the day immediately preceding your death.

**REFUND OF  
MEMBER CONTRIBUTION**

If you have no eligible survivors, your accumulated member contributions, plus interest, are paid either to your designated beneficiary or estate.

If survivor benefits terminate before survivor payments equal the refundable amount in your account at the time of death, the difference is paid to your beneficiary or estate.

**LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT**

You are covered by a life insurance benefit the first day you start work in a KTRS covered position. Coverage continues as long as you remain in an active contributing member status or receive a service or disability retirement allowance. A life insurance benefit of \$2,000 for active members and \$5,000 for retirees is paid either to your estate or designated

beneficiary. To designate a beneficiary to receive the life insurance benefit, a KTRS form must be completed and returned to the retirement system. This benefit is in addition to any other benefits that may accrue and is comparable to a paid-up life insurance policy.

**REPORTING DEATHS**

Either your employer or relative should notify KTRS by telephone or letter soon after your death in order to facilitate the processing of the necessary papers. The executor of the estate or your beneficiary will be sent information concerning the benefits available and forms for requesting the life insurance benefit.

**DEATH OF A RETIRED MEMBER  
WITH OPTION I**

Upon your death, if retired under Option I by reason of service or disability, any portion of your contributions accredited to your account, including regular interest to the date of retirement, that has not been paid to you as an allowance or benefit will be paid to your beneficiary.

**This pamphlet is intended for general informational purposes only. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this pamphlet and the relevant law, the latter will prevail. As the law is subject to change, you should contact KTRS prior to making important retirement decisions.**

**TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
OF THE STATE OF KENTUCKY**

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**TELEPHONE - (502) 848-8500**

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**DEATH  
AND  
SURVIVORS  
BENEFITS**



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